

John Taylor
Third President of the Church
From the Journal of Andrew Fjeld

John Taylor was born Nov. 1, 1808, at Milnthorpe, Westmoreland Co., England so he lacked but two months of being 68 years of age when he, as President of the Quorum of the Twelve became the leader of the Church at the death of Brigham Young.

The Quorum of the Twelve continued to preside over the Church until October 6, 1880, when the First Presidency was reorganized with John Taylor as president with George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as Counselors. These men served as Pres. Taylor's counselors until his death which occurred July 25, 1887. President Taylor died in exile because of the bitter anti-polygamy persecution which began in all its fury during his administration. He served as President of the Church for a period of ten years lacking one month.

John Taylor was not the senior member of the Quorum of the Twelve when he was selected to be the President of the Church. He was, however, President of the Quorum at the death of President Young, having been placed there through the influence of President Young. Orson Hyde and Orson Pratt were members of the Quorum before John Taylor had been ordained but these two men had faltered and had been excommunicated from the Church but upon their repentance they had been forgiven and reinstated in their original place by the kind and forgiving Prophet Joseph. It remained for Brigham Young to place them in their proper positions in the Quorum. They were set back of Taylor and Wilford Woodruff.